

> HUGH BALLANTYNE _ DIRECTOR

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Hugh is an Emmy nominated and international award-winning producer and director. He has gained a reputation for creating powerful and emotive character-driven specialist factual television and drama documentaries.

Hugh tackles big subjects, which he makes accessible through his character; whether exploring the underbelly of society or bringing the past to the present, through epic multi-million pound history series. His films span a range of genres including history, crime, science, religion, travel, art and culture.

He has made films for ITV, National Geographic Channel, History, Discovery, SKY 1, CH7 [Australia] Fox and CNN. Hugh has extensive experience in directing actors, presenters and the general public. He has a strong background in directing dynamic action and complex CGI sequences.

Hugh is known for his visually striking films, to which he brings an innovative style and cinematic approach. He draws on a breadth of storytelling skills, including writing and directing short films, high-end music videos and powerful character driven films for brands such as Converse, Nokia and Warner Music.

Hugh has developed, written and won multi-million pound television proposals for some of the UK's leading independent production companies, including Raw, Brook Lapping, Muse [Canada] and Nutopia. He regularly lectures in Film and TV at both Westminster and Sussex Universities. Hugh graduated from the Sydney Film School in 2003. Previously, he worked as an Architect.

Hugh holds both British & Australian passports and is permitted to work in both territories. Hugh currently holds a R1 US work permit, valid until 2023.

././ FACTUAL

> **MANSON : THE LOST TAPES**
_ 2 x 60 mins ITV

Prod Co.
Screened

Naked Entertainment
9pm Thursday ITV

Sept / Oct 2018

'Skilfully assembled. Intriguing and coherent

...an uncomfortable journey into cult indoctrination' _ The Telegraph

4 stars CRITICS CHOICE _ The Times

Following Manson's arrest in 1969 and whilst the family was still at its height, one young filmmaker gained access into the Cult. He filmed over 100 hours of 16mm interviews with Manson family members and took thousands of photographs. For over 45 years the material has been locked away. Until now.

The films explore the lost tapes to reveal both how Manson brainwashed a group of peace-loving kids and radicalized them into cold blooded killers. These candid 1969 testimonies give a chilling insight into the manipulated minds of the Manson family, combined with present day interviews with some of the same characters, including Catherine 'Gypsy' Share and Dianne 'Snake' Lake.

Even from his prison cell Manson had absolute power over his family. We hear from the core team involved in the case at the time. The prosecuting lawyer, police and journalists explain how even during the trial the Manson family continued to commit murder on Charlie's behalf. In 1971 Manson was convicted for the murder of 7 people, including the movie star Sharon Tate. The Manson family is suspected of killing up to 35 people.

'When somebody needs to be killed, there is no wrong, you do it and you kill whoever gets in your way, this is us.'

Sandra Good _ Manson Family Member [Manson : The Lost Tapes]

> **INSIDE THE MANSON CULT : THE LOST TAPES**
_ 2 x 60 mins FOX

Prod Co.
Screened

Naked Entertainment
9pm Sun FOX [US]

Sept 2018

3.5 million viewers per episode

Hugh was both an Executive producer and Series Director for this two-part special. The film includes additional contributors, including cult expert Rick Ross and the FBI's most pre-eminent criminal profiler, John E Douglas. John's work as a criminal psychologist inspired the lead characters in both the series MINDHUNTER and the film THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS. Douglas interviewed Manson and the 6 family members convicted of murder, to gain an

understanding of how Manson radicalized his followers.

> **CHINA'S MEGATOMB REVEALED** Prod Co. **Brook Lapping**
_ 1 x 90 mins Screened **National Geographic Ch** **2016**
National Geographic worldwide ratings hit, 49 million viewers in China alone

From the depths of the First Emperor's tomb comes a thrilling investigation that rewrites the history of China and the man who created it. Archaeologists have recently unearthed extraordinary finds, more important than anything discovered in the last 40 years. They reveal the real man behind the legends of the First Emperor, the world he grew up in and how he changed it forever. Through dramatic reconstructions Hugh reveals the life of China's First Emperor.

> **THE INVESTIGATOR : A BRITISH CRIME STORY** Prod Co. **Shiver [ITV] & Syco Entertainment**
_ 4 x 60 mins Screened **9 pm Thurs ITV** **2016**
3.1 million viewers per episode
'Nail biting stuff' _ The Independent

Hugh is the series director for a new cold case murder investigation crime series. Over four episodes, a single unsolved murder is re-examined. Former police detective, renowned criminologist and investigator Mark Williams-Thomas proves that truth can be far more compelling than fiction in this explosive new crime series. Williams-Thomas re-examines a truly chilling murder case that has baffled police detectives for more than 30 years. At the heart of this shocking story of murder, fraud, sexual deviancy and even a faked death, lies a daughter's agonising search for justice after the disappearance of her mother in 1985. For three decades she's been seeking answers. This is her final hope of getting the closure she and her family so desperately deserve. With a dogged determination to get to the truth, Williams-Thomas undertakes a forensic re-examination of the case, unravelling a captivating story that will keep audiences engrossed until its chilling climax.

> **FINDING JESUS : FAITH, FACT & FORGERY** Prod Co. **Nutopia**
_ 2 x 44 mins Screened **9pm Sun CNN [USA]** **2015**
Over one million viewers each week. CNN's first factual commission

Hugh wrote one and directed two episodes. Loved and worshipped by billions, his life and death is the subject of intense debate. But Jesus of Nazareth, the most famous man in history, has left no physical trace. Or has he? In this series we discover fascinating new insights into the historical Jesus utilising the latest state-of-the-art scientific techniques and archaeological research. We investigate the value and authenticity of six artefacts that could shed new light on Jesus and his world. Part documentary investigation, this series is also a thrilling and emotional drama, as we also look again at the Gospel characters and the stories that these artefacts connect with: the baptism, the mission, the betrayal, the Passion, the Resurrection and after.

> **AUSTRALIA : THE STORY OF US** Prod Co. **Essential Media [Aus]**
_ 4 x 44 mins Screened **8pm Sun Channel 7 [Aus]** **2015**
'Pick of the week' _ The Australian
'A rollicking yarn' _ The Sydney Morning Herald
Rated over 1 million each wk. Ch 7 is Australia's highest rating free to air network

Hugh is the series director of this epic drama documentary series. Hugh wrote two and directed the first four of the eight episodes. More than 40,000 years in the making, Australia: The Story of Us is an extraordinary narrative about the people, places and events which have shaped the country from the first footprints on the continent to the present day. Using astounding visual sequences, this groundbreaking drama documentary series weaves together stories of Australia's origins and offers an original thesis about how the people came to create the homeland they inhabit today. Alongside amazing CGI and innovative filming techniques, the series features interviews with important thinkers, notable celebrities and iconic national figures who take us inside the stories that have influenced Australia's history.

> **EXTREME WORLD : LAS VEGAS** Prod Co. **Freshwater Films**
_ 1 x 44 mins Screened **SKY 1** **2014**

Ross Kemp looks behind the neon and discovers Sin City's winners and losers. The casinos of Las Vegas generate over \$15 billion a year, yet the city has recently experienced the highest rate of foreclosures, bankruptcies and unemployment in the USA. In the storm water drains beneath the casinos Ross meets some of the city's homeless who inhabit this dangerous underworld. West Las Vegas is less than a mile from the strip but has the city's highest rate of unemployment. Ross meets some of the gangs who rule the streets. The city's illegal sex industry generates an estimated \$5 billion a year. Ross speaks to a vice detective who is bringing down the high rolling pimps and meets a middle class mum whose daughter has been groomed in high school and is now a sex worker on the strip.

> **BANGED UP ABROAD : VIETNAM POW** Prod Co. **Raw TV**

- _ 1 x 44 mins** **McCain & Brace** **Screened** **National Geographic Ch** **2013**
Winner of best documentary – Historical / Political - CABLEFAX AWARDS 2013
 SERIES PREMIERE. Ernie Brace is the longest serving POW in Vietnam history and likely endured more than any other prisoner during the war. Held for almost eight years, he faced capture, starvation, sickness, torture, solitude and desperation. After three and a half years, Brace was transported from the jungle to the infamous prison in Vietnam dubbed the Hanoi Hilton and finally heard the voice of another American: Lt. Cmdr. John McCain, a Navy pilot shot down over Hanoi.
- > MANKIND : THE STORY OF ALL OF US** **Prod Co.** **Nutopia**
_ 4 x 44 mins **Screened** **History Channel** **2012**
My Episode 5 - Nominated in 2013 Emmy Awards. Transmitted in 150 countries & translated into 37 languages
 Hugh wrote two and directed four episodes of this twelve-part series. A genre-defining mini-series narrated by Stephen Fry, this is a gripping adventure story about how we built our world. An extraordinary tale of human endeavor, struggles against huge odds – and the elements – triumphs of human spirit, inspired innovation, and shared heroism. From the development of tools, to the pyramids and from the fall of Rome to the discovery of the Americas. The greatest landmarks of the human story told from a new perspective using incredible CGI and compelling drama documentary. A tough, exciting action adventure, encompassing astronomy, geology, and the power of science, engineering and technology to transform the world around us.
- > MAN v WILD : MALAY ARCHIPELAGO** **Prod Co.** **Diverse [Bristol]**
_ 1 x 44 mins **Screened** **Discovery Ch, CH 4** **2011**
 Bear Grylls is dropped into a remote archipelago of islands off the coast of Borneo. From the moment he swims ashore Bear is fighting impenetrable jungle, scaling escarpments and navigating inhospitable swamps in his search for freshwater. Desperate for food Bear has no choice but to try and spear fish in the shallows at night. The struggle to survive continues as he tries to catch fish by free diving to depths of 20ft and on land Bear has to use all his skills to drive wild boar into his trap. But will he find the ultimate key to his survival a freshwater source?
- > FAN v WILD : BRITISH COLUMBIA** **Prod Co.** **Diverse [Bristol]**
_ 1 x 44 mins **Screened** **Discovery Ch, CH 4** **2010**
Rated over 1 million viewers in US
 Bear Grylls takes two city slickers into the Canadian wilderness on the adventure of a lifetime. Their journey begins fast roping from a helicopter onto a 10,000ft mountain peak. Their only way out is down an 80ft sheer granite rock face. Sliding through a snowfield they reach a glacier, covered in a minefield of crevasses. A 50ft ice wall is their biggest challenge yet. Exhausted and hungry they have to build a shelter, prepare and cook food before it gets dark. After a freezing cold night their journey continues: navigating a 300ft waterfall, swamps and raging glacial rivers. This will be their toughest personal challenge and a life-changing experience.
- > AMERICA : THE STORY OF US** **Prod Co.** **Nutopia**
_ 1 x 44 mins **Screened** **History Channel** **2010**
Episode: 6 rated over 3.3 million viewers. 4 times Emmy Award nominated series 2010
 HEARTLAND, episode 6 tells the story of the taming of the west. In 1865, the face of America is about to be changed by the internet of the era: the railroad. Within 45 years America's population triples and millions of settlers farm the plains. The traditional way of life for the Native Americans comes to an end and a new world emerges. America grows from an agricultural to an industrial superpower and by the end of the 19th century becomes the fastest-growing single economy in the world.
- > HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT** **Prod Co.** **Carbon Media**
_ 3 x 44 mins **Screened** **9pm SKY 1** **2010**
 Hugh wrote two and directed three episodes of this eight part series. Three of the world's leading psychologists examine the spectrum of modern thinking, from the spoken and unspoken rules of attraction and love, to the dynamics of power and wealth and the hidden psychology behind winning and lying. Eminent in their respective fields of body language [Dr Peter Collett], social science [Anjula Mutanda] and neuroscience (Dr Jack Lewis), the presenters analyse the behavior of celebrities, politicians and sportsmen and carry out field experiments involving both the presenters and the general public.
- > INDUSTRIAL JUNKIE : RUBBER** **Prod Co.** **North One TV**
_ 2 x 22 mins **Screened** **8pm Discovery Ch** **2009**
 Hugh wrote one and directed two episodes of this eight-part series. Presenter Jonny Smith, Fifth Gear (Channel 5), gets personal with Europe's biggest industries. In this episode we explore Rubber. Jonny gets a hands-on insight into the world of high-performance rubber production. From creating the sticky mix at Michelin HQ in France to hand

building a tyre for the largest commercial aircraft in the world, the A380. Jonny travels to Toulouse to install his pride and joy on an A380 aircraft before both the rubber and Jonny's workmanship are put to the test, on the runway.

> EVOLVE **Prod Co.** **Optomen [US]**
_ 1 x 60 mins **Screened** **History** **2008**

Emmy Award winning series 2009

This series traces the history of the key innovations that have led nature's evolutionary arms race, using docudrama, experimental science and live action natural history sequences. In this episode we explore venom. Scientist Bryan Fry catches and extracts venom from the world's deadliest snake, the inland Taipan. Injecting venom into samples of his blood, Bryan demonstrates how this killing machine has converted the building blocks of its body into lethal toxins.

> NATURAL BORN TRAVELLER : THE GREAT **Prod Co.** **Lonely Planet tv [Aus]** **2008**
_ 4 x 24 mins **DIVIDING RANGE** **Screened** **Discovery Ch, Voom [USA], Ch 10 [Aus]**

Australian television ASTRA Awards nomination 2008

Hugh wrote and directed all four episodes. Nobody has used a motorbike to traverse the 7,000km spine of Australia, The Great Dividing Range. Steve Crombie is a 29 yr old Australian thrill-seeker who has travelled half way round the world in search of adventure. Now he takes on his own backyard. Steve experiences the culture of this iconic range through its people. He meets a colourful cast of cattle musterers, loggers, hippies, graziers and Aboriginal elders. With the wet season lapping at his wheels, will Steve make it to Far North Queensland?

> BLUELIST AUSTRALIA **Prod Co.** **Lonely Planet tv [Aus]**
_ 6 x 24 mins **Screened** **7.30 pm SBS [Aus]** **2007**

Second highest rating series in Wed 7:30pm time slot since SBS began

Featuring some of Australia's most unique and thrilling travel experiences as voted by the Australian public. Presented by actor Samuel Johnson, The Secret Life of Us [CH 4]. Each episode contains travel experiences road tested by humorous personalities, from satirical writers exploring Melbourne's underground graffiti culture to an award-winning actress roughing it on a road trip across the outback.

> MAGIC ASIA : INDIA **Prod Co.** **Beach House Entertainment**
_ 8 x 30 mins **Screened** **AXN [Asia]** **2007**

Nominated Asian TV Awards 2007

Hugh wrote and directed the series. US celebrity illusionists Chris Korn and JB Benn stir-up Mumbai with their illusions. The boys travel through the city's hottest neighborhoods get under the skin of India's most happening city, wowing the locals with their riveting street magic. From Mumbai's famed Juhu Beach, to a vibrant street festival and even the glamorous film sets of a Bollywood movie. Chris and JB also get a crash course in India culture 101 – not only are they taught salsa dancing with a Bollywood twist, they get invited to an Indian wedding, thrust into a gaggle of Indian school kids and even perform as part of a real travelling Indian circus.

> CREATING BREAKS CONNECTING BEATS **Prod Co.** **Deepend [Aus]** **2006**
_ 1 x 30 mins **Screened** **MTV**

Join five of Australia's most innovative electronic music producers on the journey of a life time. From creating music in their bedrooms, to a festival tour across Australia to playing in front of the world's leading dance music promoters and recording artists. One of the five musicians are selected to fly to London and are introduced to some of the UK's leading record labels and play at leading electronic London club night at The End. But will they get signed?

Experience prior to 2006 available on request

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